

***It is my honor to dedicate this
South Dakota Legislative Manual to the men and women of the
South Dakota National Guard, their families and their employers.***

Secretary of State Chris Nelson

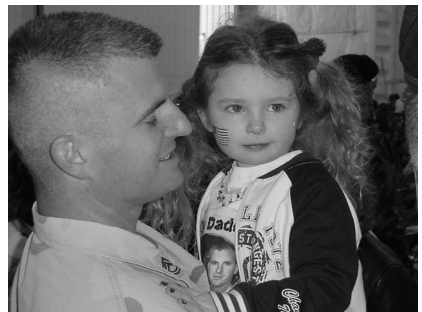
The 2005 Legislative Manual is dedicated to the men and women of the South Dakota National Guard, their families and their employers. On September 11, 2001 our nation was the target of an unprovoked and vile attack by those who seek to destroy our people, our country and the rule of law. As a nation we are at a point in history that requires extraordinary sacrifice to protect our homeland. We accept the responsibility to create the conditions for freedom in other parts of the world where human beings have been denied this basic human right.



The South Dakota National Guard and service members from every other branch of our military have responded. They have carried the fight to Iraq and Afghanistan. They have rooted out and destroyed evil. They have aided and comforted innocent civilians. They have executed their missions with a determination to see

this fight to the end. They are intent on leaving those foreign lands as a place where freedom and democracy can survive and where terrorism and tyranny are supplanted.

This tribute recognizes the personal and professional sacrifices that our service members have made in this war. These soldiers and their families were asked to put their private lives on hold. Babies were born; birthdays, anniversaries, funerals and holidays were missed; children's activities took place without a parent rooting from the sidelines; time spent guiding and bonding with growing children was lost forever; and spouses carried on the household alone.



National Guard soldiers and airmen are employees and business people. They missed opportunities to advance in their careers and expand their businesses. Co-workers, family and business partners picked up the load. They sacrificed alongside their guardsman to make sure that the work got done and that a returning Guard member would be able to come home to a surviving business instead of a closed-up shop. Royce and Jeff Loesch traveled several times a week from Pierre to Mobridge to keep the barbershop of their son and brother operating while Justin was deployed with the 200th Engineer Company in Iraq. This is but one of hundreds of stories of the commitment and sacrifice by those left behind to “keep the home fires burning” for deployed soldiers and airmen.



For the troops, their family and their friends, safety while away from home is the first concern and petition of prayer. Given the hazards of their mission and attacks by the enemy, most South Dakota soldiers and airmen came home free of physical harm. Some, however, sadly suffered injury and in ten tragic cases, death. These soldiers literally gave their bodies to support the mission and their fellow soldiers. Sergeant Dennis Morgan of Valentine, NE and Staff Sergeant Cory Brooks of Philip who were members of National Guard Company A, 153rd Engineer Battalion from Winner lost their lives in Iraq. Eight other South Dakota servicemen died in their line of duty. They are Army Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker, Forestburg; Army Pfc. Michael R. Deuel, Nemo; Army Pfc. Sheldon R. Hawk Eagle, Eagle Butte; Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy L. Bohlman, Sioux Falls; Chief Warrant Officer Hans N. Gukeisen, Lead; CW2 Scott A. Saboe, Willow Lake; Capt. Christopher F. Soelzer, Sturgis; and Lance Cpl. Joseph T. Welke, Rapid City. The South Dakota National Guard supported Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Noble Eagle (within the U.S.). Thirty-one

communities had Guard units activated for this effort. Nearly 2,560 Army National Guard soldiers and 215 Air National Guard soldiers were cited for this activation. This was nearly the highest per capita Guard participation in the nation and included over half of all the state's National Guard soldiers and airmen. These units represented transportation companies, engineers, medical services, maintenance, military police, artillery, public affairs, trainers and aviation.



Vermillion's Company B, 109th Medical Battalion, treated more than 41,000 patients, the largest number of patients in the battalion. Located in the heart of Baghdad International Airport, Company B's mission included treating troops and supporting two primary prison camps for Iraq, a remote medical site and providing medical services at a small school.

South Dakota transportation companies were busy hauling supplies and equipment into Iraq and throughout Kuwait – totaling more than 6.2 million miles. The 727th Transportation Company, of Elk Point, Brookings, Flandreau and Watertown, was located in Kuwait at a base camp simply called "Truckville." The 740th TC from Milbank and Brookings, based its operations near the Iraq-Kuwait border at Big Sky Oasis. They were a major mover in the Army's "Sustainer-Push" mission that pumps needed supplies into Iraq. These troop supplies are necessary to sustain operations in Iraq with an emphasis to push the supplies and units forward and get ahead of the demand. The 1742nd TC, of Sioux Falls and Flandreau, was based at Camp Anaconda that was located northeast of Baghdad, for nearly a year. The unit moved supplies and equipment throughout Iraq.

The 200th Engineer Company, of Pierre, Mobridge, Chamberlain, and Lemmon built, maintained and provided security for its assault float bridge that spanned over the Tigris River near Ba'Quaba, Iraq. The bridge served as a major crossing in the area north of Baghdad. Located at Camp Warhorse, the 200th not only provides security for the camp but was assigned to guard prisoners and detainees held at the camp.

Engineer units like the 842nd Engineer Company of Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis cleared land for new buildings, provided construction support service, rebuilt latrine and laundry trailers, poured concrete, installed wiring, and fabricated and installed metal security grates for ammunition bunkers. Engineer services in Afghanistan included assistance in building hospitals, schools, roads and military facilities.

The 109th Engineer Battalion was the only South Dakota unit to serve during the initial war and served as a higher headquarters for various engineer units. The Air Guard's 114th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Tallil Air Base in Iraq to provide construction and maintenance upgrade to the facility.



Seventeen ammunition specialists of the 114th Ammunition Storage Flight were deployed to Qatar where they built over 2 million pounds of net explosive weight munitions for use in the air war.

Two Army Guard battalions were mobilized for OIF 2. The 375 members from the 2nd Battalion of the 147th Field Artillery, of Watertown, Webster, Sisseton, Aberdeen, Redfield and Miller deployed to Iraq in January of 2004 and helped secure and destroy captured enemy ammunition. Its units also provided convoy security for civilian supply convoys.

More than 400 members of the 153rd Engineer Battalion, Huron, De Smet, Madison, Parkston, Platte, Wagner and Winner, deployed to Iraq February 21, 2004. The battalion completed hundreds of engineer projects and became involved in the Task Force Pathfinder missions. These missions involved locating and destroying Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) that enemy insurgents planted along the highways. Locating and destroying more than 100 IEDs, the 153rd's mission saved many lives.

The 216th Engineer Detachment of Sturgis, served as a fire fighting team at Camp Speicher, Iraq, during OIF 2. They responded to more than 100 fires and just as many emergency medical responses.

The South Dakota National Guard has only 22 soldiers serving in Iraq during OIF 3. Included are two Rapid City aviation detachments, 238th and 249th Aviation, three intelligence analysts from the 147th FA Brigade of Sioux Falls, and a doctor for Joint Forces Headquarters.

Seventy-six members of the 109th Engineer Group are currently in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The 109th serves as the major headquarters for all engineer units in that country.

Two South Dakota units provided long-term military security at installations in the United States. The 235th, of Custer and Rapid City, provided law enforcement at Fort Carson for almost a year. For two years, the 665th Maintenance Company of Mitchell and Rapid City provided security and law enforcement at Ellsworth, Air Force Base and Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

Detachment 3, 665th Maintenance Company of Sioux Falls provided mechanical support at both Fort Sill and the National Training Center. Three instructors from the Regional Training Center in Sioux Falls were activated to teach artillery courses at Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Bragg, N.C.



The 2005 Legislative Manual highlights the elected officials who lead and the institutions that serve South Dakota during this time in history. We recognize as heroes the soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard and all other South Dakotans serving in the military during this turning point in world history. We acknowledge their service and their sacrifice. We offer our gratitude for their effort to preserve our safety and our freedom. Our sincerest thanks.